

Appl. No. 09/758,395
Amdt. Dated February 1, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 1, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P13967-US1
EUS/J/P/05-3023

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 48-68 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 48-68 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claims 48, 50, 53, 65 and 67 were objected to because of informalities. Again, the Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claims to correct the informalities. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 48, 49, 56, 58 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. The Applicant has amended the claims to clear up the indefinite terms and language noted in paragraphs 9-11 of the Detailed Action. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 48, 49, 58 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Austin (US 6,157,924). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that the Austin reference does not disclose (directly or inherently) at least the following features present in claim 48, (similar features can be found in independent claim 58); two terminal devices simultaneously manipulating multi-media data using a multi-media application and sharing the manipulated data. The support for the amendments is found primarily on page 6 in the summary and in the description of

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Figure 1. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

The Austin reference appears to disclose a method and system for delivering information to a user in one or more delivery media when more than one delivery medium is required by different users. A user profile that describes the preferred delivery may be manually modified by the user or may be automatically modified by either the user or the provider of information (Col. 2, lines 30-38). Austin discloses different methods of information delivery, whether it is audiovisual, visual, audio, text, electronic display or "hard copy" by fax, printer or mail (col. 2, lines 42-62). Austin accomplishes the delivery of the information using the internet, intranet, network, fax and regular mail.

The present invention discloses a system and method for accessing multimedia data and manipulating the data for display on one or more connected terminal devices. One example is a conversational multimedia session between terminal devices that includes both terminal devices manipulating a common video object. Both terminal devices may invoke a multimedia application that is capable of manipulating the video object. At the same time, the preferences of both terminal devices (controlled by an end user) are provided to the multimedia application. An Information Adaptation Service that contains the terminal profile and user preferences provides these preferences. Additionally, the multimedia application connects to a Transcoder/Scalability Service, which provides the capabilities of the terminal(s) and the network that the multimedia data is to be sent to and through.

The Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to amended independent claim 48.

48. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an intelligent multimedia services environment in a network, comprising the steps of:

responsive to a request by an end user, a first terminal device coupled to the network establishing a session with a media server and initiating a multimedia application that is shared by a second terminal device;

simultaneously sharing and manipulating multimedia data from one or more multimedia databases;

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selecting the multimedia data according to user preferences
utilizing a first application associated with the multimedia application;

adapting the multimedia data according to terminal device
capabilities and network capabilities utilizing a second application
associated with the multimedia application;

providing communication between the first terminal device and the
second terminal device and the multimedia data and the multimedia
application;

determining preferences of the first and second terminal devices;
and

automatically adapting the multimedia data to satisfy the
determined preferences and the terminal device and network capabilities
of the first and second terminal devices prior to sending the multimedia
data to the first and second terminal devices. (emphasis added)

The Applicant respectfully asserts that the emphasized limitations are not present in the Austin reference.

As described above, the Austin reference provides alternative ways of communicating between a source (business) and a user (customer). (Summary). Essentially, Austin discloses the customer indicating a preferred/required device for receiving data from the business. The data format can be email, audiovisual, text, fax, etc. However, in contrast to the Austin reference, the present invention discloses a method and system that allows e.g., at least two customers to access and manipulate multimedia data; provide the preferences for the terminal from which the manipulation originates and provide the manipulated multimedia data to the other terminal(s) according to the preferences of the other terminals.

In the Official Action, a correspondence is drawn between the claimed feature of determining preferences of one or more end users and the description of Austin's disclosure of a user specifying a particular medium by which to receive the requested data. (Col. 2, lines 41-63, col. 12, lines 28-40, col. 13, lines 20-30). Essentially, The Austin reference describes the client determining the medium in which a particular set of data is sent to the client. In contrast to the Austin reference the present invention adapts data to a network and to terminal devices (the requesting client or a receiving client), where a terminal device can manipulate data and the manipulated data can be sent back to the terminal device and to any other designated terminal device(s).

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The present invention also provides for more than one terminal device accessing a multimedia application at the same time for manipulating the multimedia data. The manipulated data is adapted and sent for display on the terminal devices. The Applicant respectfully submits that Austin does not disclose two or more terminals accessing or manipulating data at the same time. As between claim 48 and the Austin reference, the Applicant submits that amended independent claim 58 contains limitations analogous to those found in claim 48. This being the case, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 48 and 58.

Claims 49 and 59 depend from amended claims 48 and 58 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claims 48 and 58. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 50-57 and 60-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Austin (US 6,157,924) in view of Bhagwat, et al. (US 6,563,517 hereinafter Bhagwat). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

Bhagwat is cited for modifying data based on client and network capabilities to optimize data access by different client types. Bhagwat appears to disclose a method and apparatus for dynamically adjusting transcoding parameters. The parameters are adjusted to improve the end result at different client types. However, Bhagwat does not provide the limitation lacking in the Austin reference, that of two devices simultaneously operating a multimedia application for manipulating data.

Claims 50-57 and 60-68 depend from the amended independent claims 48 and 58 and contain the same limitations. This being the case, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 50-57 and 60-68.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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